

## ABSTRACT

## Testing network communications

[30030650 US]

For testing communication in a network which carries data frames between  
5 communications ports having respective addresses, each frame containing an indication of  
the address of the source of the frame, the address of the intended destination of the frame,  
and other data, a tester has at least one communications port and a receiver for receiving a  
data frame arriving at the communications port. The tester includes circuitry for recognising  
test data frames according to at least one predetermined criterion, and extracting  
10 predetermined items from each test data frame including the source and destination  
addresses. A new test data frame is generated incorporating the predetermined items, with  
the source and destination addresses exchanged, and incorporating additional content of  
predetermined value, and a transmitter transmits the new data frame with the exchanged  
addresses into the network.